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CHELMSFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

(JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)
(Barrister-at-Law)

FOR

— 1941 —

SOUTHEND:
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1942.

London Road,

Chelmsford.

26th June, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chelmsford Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your district during the year 1941.

In accordance with the Circular from the Minister of Health the report has been further curtailed.

Owing to the abnormal conditions both before and since the outbreak of war a great amount of time has had to be given to other than normal public health activities.

In spite of the considerable movement of population into the area no increase in the incidence of infectious disease occurred and the general health of the community was maintained.

To my colleagues I am much indebted for valuable assistance and to Mr. Ogden for helping in the preparation of this Report.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I beg to thank the Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

STAFF.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health : John F. Macdonald, M.D., D.P.H., (also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural Districts of Maldon and Rochford.)

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health : M. C. Barton, (in H.M. Forces.) Mrs. M. Marshall.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Petroleum Inspector : A. Denton Ogden, M.B.E., F.R.S.I., F.S.I.A., [Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, Royal Sanitary Institute, late Investigator to the Industrial Fatigue Research Board (Medical Research Council).]

Second Sanitary Inspector : G. F. Mellor, A.M.Inst.P.C., M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., (Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, Qualified Smoke Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : T. H. C. Bartrop, M.S.I.A. A.R.S.I., (Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, Royal Sanitary Institute).

Clerk-Assistant : F. B. Brewster.

Clerk : R. H. Hawkes, (in H.M. Forces since December, 1941).

ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

Engineer and Surveyor: T. T. Thomas, M.Inst., M. & Cy. E., (Died February 1941)

Acting Engineer and Surveyor : D. C. Pinder.

Clerical Staff : A. R. Brookes, (in H.M. Forces).
R. V. Aldred (in H.M. Forces).
Miss M. G. Porter.
J. G. Baker.
J. Riebold.

CHELMSFORD RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Statistics

Area (in acres)	86,506 (land and inland waters)
Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population, mid-1941	omitted.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books	omitted.
Rateable value (1st April, 1941)	£190,378
The sum represented by a penny rate year ending 31st March, 1941.	£790 8s. 5d.

Social Conditions

The majority of the adult population continued to be employed in agriculture or in works within the Borough of Chelmsford.

No outbreaks of disease have occurred which could be attributable to evacuation. There were a number of cases of impetigo and scabies, principally amongst children. These were given hospital treatment.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population mid-1941	13.5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	26.5
Death-rate per 1,000 civilian population ..	11.7
Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age :—	
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births.. ..	32.9
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	32.2
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	47.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	71
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1
Deaths from Measles	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea	nil

Comparative Table of Birth and Death Rates During the Year 1941.

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	
England and Wales ..	14.2	12.9	59
126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London ..	14.7	14.9	71
148 smaller towns with estimated resident population of from 25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census)	16.4	13.0	56
Chelmsford Rural District ..	13.5	11.7*	32.9

*In order to render this figure comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole, it must be multiplied by the "Areal Comparability Factor (A.C.F)" 0.89, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the correct death rate is 10.4 as compared with 14.2 for the country as a whole.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory facilities: Additional facilities to supplement those already available have been provided by the establishment of Emergency Public Health Laboratories under the direction of the Medical Research Council.

Ambulance facilities : Nursing in the home : Treatment Centres and Clinics : Hospitals—Public and Voluntary. Registered Nursing Homes. These all remain unchanged.

Two war emergency maternity hospitals are provided in the district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water : Except in those parishes within the Southend Waterworks Company's statutory area and in Broomfield where there is a local supply, water continues to be obtained in bulk from the South Essex Waterworks Company.

During the year 79 additional premises were connected to the mains and 13 houses supplied by standpipe.

Samples taken from the Broomfield Waterworks are reported upon as a " wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of public supply."

Drainage and Sewerage.

A sample of the effluent from the Ingatestone Sewage Disposal Works has been reported upon as being of a satisfactory standard.

Closet Accommodation.

No great changes have been made to those shown in previous reports.

Public Cleansing.

No changes were made in the collection services during the year.

Salvage work continues. Considerable time is necessarily spent in supervising and administering this work.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following table gives details of the inspections carried out by the chief Sanitary Inspector's Department and of notices served.

INSPECTIONS AND PARTICULARS OF NOTICES FOR THE YEAR, 1941.

Nature of Inspection.	Total Inspections.	Notices Outstanding at end of 1940	Notices served.		Notices	
			Informal.	Statutory.	Complied with.	Outstanding at end of 1941.
Infectious Diseases Inquiries ..	487	—	—	—	—	—
Disinfection	13	—	—	—	—	—
Houses Inspected and Recorded under Housing Acts ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Do. under Public Health Acts	16	51	38	17	38	68
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	64	—	—	—	—	—
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	53	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	5	1	9	3	1	12
Dirty condition of Houses ..	2	—	1	1	2	—
Other Nuisances	322	—	—	—	—	—
Re-inspections	59	—	—	—	—	—
Privies and Pail Closets ..	34	11	9	6	10	16
Water Closets	11	3	17	6	10	16
Urinals	33	—	1	—	—	1
House drainage	281	49	71	12	60	72
Water Supply	77	21	11	14	17	29
Pigstyes	6	—	—	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Schools	6	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Shops	34	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies ..	290	25	29	1	25	30
Bakehouses	62	4	—	—	1	3
Ice-cream Premises ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses and Meatshops	420	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers Yards	12	—	—	—	—	—
Fresh and Fried Fishshops	8	—	—	—	—	—
Factories	35	—	—	—	—	—
Rats, Mice and Insects Pests	26	2	14	1	12	5
Tents, Vans, Sheds ..	32	3	2	—	2	3
Public Cleansing :—						
Ashbins	117	2	171	3	166	10
Refuse Dumps ..	203	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	351	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	1	—	1	—
Food Storage and Preparing Premises	8	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	905	2	15	2	15	4
Total	3,985	174	389	66	360	269

FACTORIES.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	35	—	—
Total	35	—	—

2.—**DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects. Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — insufficient ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — unsuitable or defective ..	—	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences .. .. (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)	—	1	—	—
Total	—	2	—	—

The following tables provide statistics of work done as a result of the service of Informal and/or Statutory Notices :—

Ashbins provided	166
Brick walls repaired or roughcast	8
Chimney stacks repaired or re-pointed ..	5
Ceiling plasters repaired or renewed ..	14
Coppers repaired or provided	1
Dampness remedied other than by d.p.c. ..	8
Dirty or verminous houses cleansed ..	1
Doors repaired or renewed	4
Eavesgutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	7
External wall plaster repaired or renewed ..	9
Floors repaired or re-laid	10
Foodstores provided or repaired	2
Handrails provided to staircases	2
Internal wall plaster repaired or renewed ..	16
Roofs repaired or renewed	14
Sinks provided or repaired	1
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed ..	3
Stoves repaired or renewed ..	8
Washing accommodation provided	1
Weatherboarded walls renewed or repaired ..	1
Windows or frames repaired or renewed ..	18
Miscellaneous repairs	6

Cesspools rendered watertight	1
Cesspools repaired	2
Choked drains unstopped ..	9
Drainage systems altered or repaired ..	9
Drainage cut off from ditches, watercourses, etc.	13
Foul ditches cleansed	2
Foul ponds cleansed	1
Houses connected to the sewer	2
Inspection covers renewed	1
Overflows from cesspools abolished ..	3
Pail closet structures repaired or renewed ..	2
Pails provided to closets..	1
Water closet flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	5
Water closet pedestals repaired or renewed ..	3
Water closet structures repaired or renewed ..	3

Hot water boilers repaired or renewed ..	1
Main water supply provided to houses ..	8
Pumps repaired	1
Water pipes repaired	2
Water tanks repaired or renewed	1
Wells cleansed, repaired or improved ..	1

Approaches to cowsheds or dairies improved ..	3
Cowsheds cleansed	2
Cowshed floors repaired	4
Cowshed walls repaired	6
Cowsheds repairs (other than floors and walls)	11
Cesspools cleansed	1
Dairies sealed off from other buildings ..	1
Dairies repaired or improved	5
Dairy floors repaired	2
Dairy walls repaired	1
Drainage to cowshed or dairy improved ..	2
Improvements to water supply	4
Lighting to cowshed or dairy improved ..	7
Manure accumulations removed	2
Mechanical milking plants, sterilizers, &c., cleansed and repaired	2
Other improvements to cowsheds or dairies ..	12
Ventilation to cowsheds or dairies	6
Water supply provided to cowsheds or dairies ..	1

Miscellaneous work done	12

Camping Sites.

Eight camping sites were licensed during the year.

HOUSING

The following table gives details of the housing work carried out during the year. It will be seen that the work has been further interfered with as a result of war-time restrictions and other duties.

There were no plans submitted for the erection of houses during 1941.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year* :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	57
(*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	171
(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	20
(*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	26
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices* :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	36

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year* :—

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— By Owners	7

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders :—
By Owners .. .. —

It is impossible to give any accurate picture as to overcrowding based on the Housing Act standard. War conditions have resulted in relatives and friends taking up temporary residence with families normally resident in the district and other persons have secured the tenancy of vacant houses and two or more families are living together. At the same time no gross overcrowding has been found.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

There are 225 registered cowsheds and dairies in the district in which milk is produced for sale, large proportion of which are licensed for the production of Designated Milks by the Essex County Council. In addition there are 23 dairies used by persons who retail milk purchased from other producers, and 22 persons who are registered to retail milk within the district, with premises outside the district. These premises have been regularly inspected and details of works which have been carried out as a result of requests from your Sanitary Inspector's Department, in order to improve the premises, are shown in the table on page 9.

15 licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938. These were renewals of licences previously granted to the holders.

Meat and Other Foods.

All animals are slaughtered in slaughterhouses outside the district. Meat exposed for sale or deposited for manufacture in premises within the district is regularly inspected.

923 lbs. of meat were condemned as diseased or unsound or unfit for the food of man. 120 lbs. of butter were also condemned.

Quantities of poultry and rabbits exposed for sale in shops have been inspected.

The bakehouses and other premises where food is prepared for sale were also regularly visited. Supervision was maintained over premises where ice cream is manufactured or stored for sale.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There was no major outbreak of notifiable infectious disease during the year. The comparatively large number of cases of infectious disease occurring in Runwell during the year is largely due to cases occurring in an Institution in the parish.

The immunisation of children against diphtheria was continued during the year. The prophylactic used throughout was A.P.T.

The percentage of children immunised at the end of 1941 was:—

Aged 1-15	34%
Aged 1-5	24%
Aged 5-15	38%

The immunisation is continuing and it is hoped that parents will take full advantage of the facilities provided for protecting their children against such a serious disease as Diphtheria.

The following tables show the incidence of Infectious Disease during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR (EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS).

Notifiable Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 or over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Typhoid ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever ..	27	—	—	2	2	2	9	8	1	2	1	—	—	24	—
Whooping Cough ..	131	6	10	12	23	17	55	5	2	—	—	—	1	2	1
Diphtheria	15	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	6	—	4	1	10‡	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	3	—
Measles	366	6	23	22	35	28	195	36	4	10	4	3	—	8	1
Pneumonia ..	19	—	1	—	3	—	4	1	—	2	1	2	4	*†	26
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	†	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	1
Totals	575	13	34	36	63	47	265	52	9	25	7	14	9	52	29

† Full details not available.
‡ Remaining cases were at Runwell Hospital
* 1 age not know

TABLE SHOWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1941.

Parish	Tyyhoid.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Measles	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	*Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	*Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Total.
Great Baddow	1	2	14	—	1	22	1	1	1	2	2	47
Little Baddow	—	—	5	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	23
Boreham	—	—	6	1	—	52	2	—	—	2	—	63
Broomfield	—	1	3	—	—	17	1	—	—	1	—	22
Chignal	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Danbury	—	3	35	—	—	63	1	1	—	—	—	103
Good Easter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Hanning-field	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Sth Hanningfield	—	—	10	1	—	8	3	1	—	1	—	24
W.Hanningfield	—	—	4	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	12
Ingatestone & Fryerning	—	—	7	—	—	26	1	—	—	1	—	42
Great Leighs	—	8	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	7
Little Leighs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Margaretting	—	—	2	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	18
Mashbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountnessing	—	—	1	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	9
Pleshey	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Rettendon	—	—	8	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	28
Roxwell	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Runwell	—	1	4	12	7	15	5	1	—	18	1	64
Sandon	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Springfield	—	1	11	—	—	22	—	—	1	—	—	35
Stock	—	—	11	—	—	12	2	—	—	—	—	26
Great Waltham	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	4
Little Waltham	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	4
Woodham Ferrers	—	6	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	1	—	34
Writtle	—	2	5	—	—	24	1	—	—	—	2	35
Totals	1	27	131	15	8	366	19	4	4	30	6	611

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods.	*New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
5 ,, 15 ..	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 ,, 25 ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ,, 35 ..	5	4	1	—	1	3	—	—
35 ,, 45 ..	1	4	1	—	2	2	—	—
45 ,, 55 ..	2	3	—	—	2	1	1	—
55 ,, 65 ..	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	14	16	3	3	6	6	2	1

*Not including cases of tuberculosis removed into the district during the year, which had been previously notified elsewhere.

REPORT OF PETROLEUM INSPECTOR.

(A. Denton Ogden, M.B.E., F.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.)

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Under an Order made by the Government, only in certain instances are persons now permitted to store petroleum spirit. The Council have only issued licences where they are satisfied and have evidence from the Petroleum Board that such storage is necessary.

No contraventions of the Regulations were found during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. DENTON OGDEN,

Petroleum Inspector.

Council Offices,

London Road, Chelmsford.